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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Investors Business Daily: Why Do Democrats Pretend Voter Fraud Doesn't Exist?

As people go to vote on Tuesday, they will be counting on the system working properly. Which means only those eligible to vote will do so. Unfortunately, as recent cases show, that's not always the case. The Heritage Foundation has a database that now includes 1,165 cases of election fraud across 47 states. More than 1,000 of them resulted in criminal convictions. Yet there are those—mostly Democrats and mainstream journalists—who continue to insist that voter fraud is a myth. When shown concrete examples, the response is usually “well, it's not widespread.” But that reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of elections. You don't need “widespread” voter fraud to change election outcomes, just small-scale efforts targeted on tight or consequential elections. The fact is that committing voter fraud isn't all that difficult, but minimizing it is easy. Cleaning up registration rolls, enacting voter ID requirements, using paper ballots, and implementing better controls on early and absentee voting would make non-citizen voting and other forms of fraud virtually impossible. Those who say voter fraud is no big deal should realize something. Every single vote cast fraudulently cancels out one legitimate vote. They need to ask themselves how they'd feel if it was their vote being canceled.

<https://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/voter-fraud-midterm-elections/>

FEDERAL

National Review: Is It Too Much to Expect Voters to Register? The Left Thinks So

As Election Day rapidly approaches, the Radical Left is making yet another absurd claim: that requiring voter registration is a ‘voter suppression’ tool. Registration is essential to assure the integrity of elections. It allows election officials to verify the eligibility and identity of voters. It also enables them to make sure they will have enough ballots in polling places that use paper ballots—and that's the majority of jurisdictions across the U.S. While government records are useful for verifying voter registrations, research shows they would be ineffective in creating accurate voter rolls. One of the most glaring problems with these databases is that they cannot verify a basic eligibility requirement for voting—citizenship. Non-citizens can receive driver's licenses in all 50 states, and illegal aliens are receiving licenses in more than a dozen states, including California. Noncitizens also pay property taxes. Automatic voter registration would register all such ineligible individuals. No evidence exists that eliminating voter registration will increase turnout. In fact, Census Bureau data from the 2008 election found that individuals who were not registered to vote did not cite registration problems as the reason for not voting.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/10/voter-registration-left-claims-voter-suppression/>

Fox News: CNN's Toobin Accused of Advancing Racist Argument in Fight Over ID Laws

Speaking to Fox News' "Tucker Carlson Tonight" on Thursday, Kansas Republican gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach accused CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin of advancing a "racist argument"—just one day after Toobin charged that Kobach wanted to "stop black people and poor people from voting."

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/kris-kobach-accuses-cnns-jeffrey-toobin-of-advancing-racist-argument-day-after-toobin>

Supreme Court Allows Court Challenge on Census Citizenship Question to Go Forward

The Supreme Court is allowing a trial over the decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census to go forward over the Trump administration's objection. The Justices' issued a brief order rejecting the administration's request to postpone the trial; set to begin Monday in New York. More than a dozen states and big cities, among others, have sued over Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision to add a citizenship question to the census for the first time since 1950. The lawsuits argue that Ross acted improperly and that the question will discourage immigrants from participating, diluting political representation and federal dollars for states that tend to vote Democratic. The administration has said the question will allow the Justice Department to enforce the Voting Rights Act more effectively. Last week, the justices blocked the questioning of Ross in advance of the trial, but allowed other preparations to continue.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/nov/2/supreme-court-allows-census-trial-to-go-forward/>

STATES

Arizona: Court Upholds Law Barring Collection of Mail-In Ballots

An appeals court has upheld a 2016 Arizona law banning groups from collecting mail-in ballots from voters and delivering them. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in a challenge filed by Democratic activist Rivko Knox, who said the law has caused her to stop delivering ballots for voters who request assistance. The appeals court rejected Knox's arguments that the statute violates her free speech and due process rights and is trumped by federal laws governing postal deliveries. The law bans anyone but caregivers or family members from delivering a completed early ballot to a polling place. Both parties have used ballot collection to boost turnout during elections by going door to door and asking voters if they have completed their mail-in ballots.

https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/arizona/articles/2018-11-01/court-upholds-law-barring-collection-of-mail-in-ballots?src=usn_tw

California: DMV 'Motor Voter' System May Harm Election Integrity

Many in California are blaming the high level of voter fraud on the carelessness of state politicians. At issue is the state's new "motor voter" system. Under this law, people are automatically registered to vote after completing a transaction with the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV), if they are deemed eligible and don't decline. Their names are then added to the voter rolls, and it is the job of the Secretary of State to review the rolls and remove the names of those who are not eligible. A slew of registration mistakes have been announced, prompting Secretary of State Alex Padilla to direct the DMV to add an additional layer of manual review before transferring people's names to the voter rolls.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/motor-voter-system-criticized-for-worsening-californias-election-integrity_2707055.html

California: Voter Fraud Case Filed After 2017 Riverside Investigation

A Riverside man has been charged with voting twice in the 2016 June primary as well as that year's presidential election—an action called “an honest mistake” in a house where three generations of men with the same first and last name live and receive voting material, the man's father said. The case developed out of a 2017 voter fraud investigation by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office in which more than 60 search warrants were sought. No other cases have been filed from the investigation, District Attorney spokesman John Hall said this week. Investigators say Richard Anthony Hamilton, 22, registered twice, once in 2014 and again in 2016—not under different names, but using two different dates of birth. “It appeared that Richard voted twice in the 2016 General and Presidential Primary Election” by using both his true date of birth and the incorrect one. Both votes were submitted by mail-in ballot, the arrest declaration, filed in October, said.

<https://www.pe.com/2018/11/01/one-voter-fraud-case-filed-after-2017-riverside-county-investigation/>

District of Columbia: 16-Year-Olds Could Vote for President

The Washington, D.C., City Council is preparing to vote on a bill to lower the voting age to 16 for all elections, both local and federal. WTOP-FM reports the bill won 3-0 approval in the Judiciary and Public Safety committee Thursday and will get a final vote before the full council this month. The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizens 18 and older the right to vote, but scholars have said it doesn't prevent a state, or in this case, the nation's capital, from setting a lower age.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/nov/2/bill-to-lower-city-voting-age-to-16-heads-to-final/>

Georgia: Judge: State Must Ease Rule for Voters Proving Citizenship

Georgia must make it easier for voters flagged as potential noncitizens to prove their U.S. citizenship at the polls, a federal judge ruled Friday in an

injunction ordering the state to change its procedure just four days before Election Day. The injunction by U.S. District Court Judge Eleanor L. Ross addresses a specific issue that arose from a broader lawsuit by civil rights groups who in October filed a broader challenge to Georgia's “exact match” verification process. The state requires identification information on voter registration applications to precisely match information already on file with the Georgia Department of Driver Services or the Social Security Administration. The judge ruled the state unfairly burdens about 3,100 possible voters whose registration was flagged for citizenship issues, because only a deputy registrar is allowed to clear them to vote a regular ballot when the voters show proof of citizenship at the polls. She ruled that Georgia must immediately start allowing poll managers, in addition to deputy registrars, to clear flagged voters who show proof of citizenship.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/nov/2/judge-georgia-must-ease-rule-for-voters-proving-ci/>

New Jersey: Lawmaker Says Hoboken Probe Proves Need for Stiff Penalties for Voter Fraud

A Republican lawmaker from Middlesex County is using the federal probe into an alleged cash-for-votes scheme in Hoboken to propose stiffer penalties for voter fraud. In a statement, state Sen. Sam Thompson said the claims in the indictments, which allege developer Frank Raia directed associates to promise voters \$50 in exchange for their votes in 2013's Hoboken elections, are an “affront to our democracy” that must be stopped. Raia was an at-large council candidate that year and also supported a ballot initiative on Hoboken rent-control laws. The bill, S-3184, would make extreme cases of voter fraud a second-degree felony, meaning they would be punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The fraud would be considered serious if it's not a first offense, if the number of votes impacted is greater than two, if the violation occurred in two or more election cycles or if the convicted fraudster accepted or offered money in exchange for votes.

https://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2018/11/nj_senator_says_hoboken_indictments_prove_need_for.html

North Dakota: Judge Rules Native Americans Must Comply with Voter ID Law

A federal judge has ruled that Native Americans in North Dakota must comply with the state's recently tightened voter ID law. At the same time, U.S. District Court Judge Daniel Hovland acknowledged that the law had raised concerns. The controversial law requires North Dakota residents to show identification with a current street address. Many residents of Native American reservations—who tend to vote for Democrats—do not have street addresses. They have Post Office box numbers, and those don't qualify. In October, the Supreme Court declined to overturn the law. Hovland denied a motion to exempt Native Americans in certain counties from complying with the law.

<https://www.npr.org/2018/11/02/663417341/judge-rules-native-americans-in-north-dakota-must-comply-with-voter-id-law>

North Dakota: Heitkamp Spreads False Claim Hunters Could Lose License if They Vote

Senator Heidi Heitkamp appeared to endorse a false claim from the state's Democratic Party suggesting that citizens would lose their out-of-state license to hunt if they vote in this year's election. "Voting means you are a resident, it means you pay taxes here, it means that if you want a residential hunting license in Minnesota, it means you're not going to get that, if you vote here," Heitkamp told reporters. She was responding to a question about a Facebook ad from the Democratic Party warning North Dakota hunters that they might be forced to forfeit their out-of-state licenses if they vote in this election.

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/11/03/heitkamp-election-hunters/>

REDISTRICTING

North Carolina: Judges Find Four Wake House Districts Unconstitutional

Four Wake County House districts must be redrawn before the 2020 elections, a three-judge panel said Friday, finding the existing district lines unconstitutional. The ruling won't change the lines for Tuesday's legislative elections, but the panel said the General Assembly must redraw the districts no later than the end of its next regular session or July 1 of next year, whichever comes first.

<https://bit.ly/2PFcFm1>

Pennsylvania: GOP Dealt 3rd Redistricting Loss in US Courts

The U.S. Supreme Court is dismissing another challenge by top Republican lawmakers from Pennsylvania to the legality of new congressional district boundaries imposed by the state's highest court in a gerrymandering case. The high court denied the case by House Speaker Mike Turzai and Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati. It's the third time the nation's highest court has rejected such a GOP effort.

https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/pennsylvania/articles/2018-10-30/pennsylvania-gop-dealt-3rd-redistricting-loss-in-us-courts?src=usn_tw